(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the "Pioneer" dated the 21st August, 1997 which speaks of 1000 kg. specialised alloy, imported for space and missile applications, has been smuggled to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) had ordered 2.5 MT Aluminium Vanadium, a Master Alloy for production of Titanium alloy, from Germany, in June 1993, out of which 1.5 MT was received in October 1993, through MIDHANI's Clearing Agent at Bombay. The second consignment of 1 MT was received and cleared by the Agent in November, 1994, but was retained by the agent pending settlement of old disputed bills. This happened to be the last consignment handled by the Clearing Agent, since his contract with MIDHANI was to expire in November, 1994. After the dispute was settled in March, 1997 and delivery of consignment was taken, it was discovered subsequently that the delivery drums contained only 80 Kgs. of the alloy metal and the rest were masonry bricks. The Company has lodged an FIR with the Bombay Police against this pilferage and has also taken up the matter with the Government of Maharashtra (Department of Home) for expediting investigations. In addition, MIDHANI have instituted a fact-finding inquiry to probe the entire matter and to identify loopholes in the delivery acceptance procedure in order to avoid recurrence of such incidents. MIDHANI is also seeking legal redressal from the Clearing Agent.

The matter has been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation on the 5th September, 1997, which has already started investigations.

Allotment of defence land to Karnataka Government

31. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land required by the Karnataka Government for the Ring Road in Bangalore from defence, has been handed over by defence to Karnataka Government; and

(b) if not, the reason for not giving the land?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Defence land measuring 17 acres required for intermediate Ring Road has been handed over to the Bangalore Development Authority.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, question does not arise.

Extension of Indo-Russian bilateral agreement

32. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have decided to extend the bilateral defence co-operation agreement by a decade to 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have considered the fact that the Russia had reneged under U.S. pressures from selling India designs of cryogenic engine despite an earlier agreement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reaction of government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) During the visit of Raksha Mantri to Russia in October, 1997 both India and Russia agreed, in principle, to extend the Long Term Programme of Military Technical Co-operation between the two countries beyond the year 2000

and upto 2010. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose details of activities under the Military-Technical Co-operation between the two countries.

(c) to (e) The on-going contract with Russia on the cryogenic rocket engines is being implemented as envisaged in December, 1993.

Indo-Russian JWG on Military-Technical Cooperation

33. SHRI BNGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to Russia, both the countries have decided to set up a Joint Working Group on Military-Technical Co-operation;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the Joint Working Group;

(c) whether any meeting of the Joint Working Group has since been held; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) A Joint Working Group on Military-Technical Co-operation between India and Russia was set up in December, 1994 and not during the visit of Raksha Mantri to Russia in October, 1997. This Group is co-chaired by the Defence Secretary from the Indian side and consists of senior officers from the Department of Defence, Defence Production and Supplies, Defence Research & Development and the three Services Headquarters. So far three meetings of the Joint Group have been held both in India and Russia. The Joint Group is responsible to review the progress of the implementation of the Long Term Programme of Military-Technical Co-operation between the two countries.

Construction of road connecting Manipur and Myanmar

34. DR. MOHAN BABU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Border Roads Organisation is constructing a road connecting Morah Town in Manipur with Kyigone in Myanmar via Tamu;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the length of the road, cost involved and the advantage that would accrue to both sides; and

(c) by when the road is likely to be completed and the share of cost to be borne by India and Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) MEA has entrusted to BRO the upgradation/development of 160.525 Kms long Tamu-Kalemyo Kalewa road in Myanmar at a cost of Rs. 91.98 crores. When completed, the road will serve as an extension of National Highway (NH-39) linking Imphal with Morah. The road is expected to facilitate improved border management and security in the border area, control of drug trafficking, enhancement of land border trade and improvement of communications thereby providing for greater interaction between the people of the two countries in the long run.

(c) Road is planned to be completed by the end of year 2000 and funds for execution of this work are being provided by the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs.

सेवानिवृत रक्षा कार्मिकों के लिए समुचित चिकित्सा सुविधाएं

35. **श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि रक्षा कर्मियों को अपनी सेवानिवृत्ति के पश्चात् समुचित चिकित्सा सुविधायें प्राप्त नहीं होती हैं;